



## This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Most particularly, let us thank GOD for St. Joseph.
- Let us thank all those people who confide in GOD's will, listen carefully to His call and then set off, wherever it may lead them.



If we are pursuing an intimate relationship with GOD, He will see our good will. This good will may not go unnoticed with St. Joseph as well. St. Joseph will help us – his life along with labour and duty was a constant contemplation and immersion in GOD. We will only succeed in immersion in GOD, if we seek stillness – in nature, in ourselves, before the Tabernacle – and if we learn to be silent, to listen, to keep our tongue in check among people. There are many people who set a good example by doing good, who pray a lot for their neighbours, for peace in the world, and so on. They act in a very pious way. Unfortunately, many make themselves the focus of attention in the process, talk too much, and often fellow human beings are dragged into it, which is neither necessary nor appropriate. Apostle James wrote in one of his letters to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: „If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not bridle his tongue deceives himself, and his religion is worthless.“ (James 1,26)

With kind regards and united with the blessing of Saint Joseph,

*Paula*



May 2017

## Lay Community of St Joseph

### St. Joseph Breaks Free from Our Standards

Joseph was a simple workman. He showed many people, among whom are also many Saints, the way to personal sanctification being himself a living example of it. Certainly not as the old man depicted in so many portrayals, but in the prime of life, full of vitality and with a deep faith in GOD. The name Joseph means: GOD will add. From this hope we may all draw and live by it. On all who strive to fulfil GOD's will, GOD will bestow new, unheard-of dimensions.

Sacred Scripture praises Joseph as a righteous man, because it means as much as pious, in fact, a blameless servant of GOD – who fulfils the divine will and is always willing to help his neighbour. He did all these things with great love and devotion, and he did them in a life anything but comfortable. He had learnt to advance in the divine plan with all his talents, all his experiences of life and all his strength, in love for Mary, with fatherly love towards JESUS, and with a living hope in the great work which GOD had begun to accomplish in the world. Joseph is initiated into the great mystery – the work of redemption.

Let us have a look at the modest man Joseph. Let us follow in thought a little of his path through life. Let us hear what he would like to tell us. Joseph had a listening heart, which perceived GOD's wishes even while sleeping. In his sleep he heard the command of the Angel: „Get up, take the Child and His mother and escape to Egypt!“ Without delay, he did what he was told to do, completely relying on further instructions. His heart was so pure, so sincere, so attentive that he immediately accepted GOD's command. Joseph knew GOD's manner, so that he was not deceived.

Mary's basic attitude – in the decision of her life:

„Behold, I am the Lord's servant, may it be to me according to your word.“ (Luke 1,38) – Joseph did what he was told to do. Equally essential in his life is his yes.

### **Escape into the Unknown**

The Holy Family was travelling for weeks on dangerous roads, exhausted, starving and thirsty. On arrival in Egypt, Joseph experienced the fate of the homeless person, the refugee, the stranger who is an alien, being compelled to look for a place to stay for his Family.

Before their return to Nazareth, they were constantly threatened again. Joseph had watchful eyes, watchful ears, but even more so a watchful heart to detect any danger. Joseph took his Family back home – he, the Protector of the holy Church, who watched over her in her initial stage.

In Nazareth now, St. Joseph was hoping to take care of and live for his loved ones, JESUS and Mary, in peace, with joy

and devotion. Soon he faced the difficult moment: his foster Son, the SON of GOD, was missing for three days, searching for Him night and day, exhausted by anxiety and grief that something terrible might have happened to Him. (These three days are the anticipation, so to speak, of the mystery of the three days of JESUS in the grave.) „Didn't you know that I had to be in my Father's house?“ (Luke 2,49) „My Father's house“ – well, should Joseph have felt degraded? No, he knew that he was the protector of the SAVIOUR, servant of the mystery of the Incarnation, of the whole history of salvation.

Eventually, Joseph died before he could see the revelation, the years of the public teaching of JESUS. Joseph – his whole life, hopes and love remain hidden in stillness. Joseph had not found fulfilment in himself by straining himself to the utmost, by trying to make something great out of himself. No, he was in a state of constant readiness to let himself be guided to the place where he could please GOD and fulfil His will.

If a person puts his trust in GOD's directions, he will come to terms with himself, find his true value and dignity.

St. Teresa of Avila tells us how important it is to make every effort to give up unnecessary things and businesses, each according to their own standard of living. It is her conviction that we can only go the spiritual way because GOD Himself has nothing more important to do than draw us ever closer to Him.

